

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06278 300925Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01

/020 W

----- 034604

R 300630Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9077

INFO DA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6278

SECDEF FOR ISA

FROM: THE AMBASSADOR

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJ: CONTINUITY IN SANG MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

REF : STATE 230811

1. I CONCUR WITH YOUR ASSESSMENT REGARDING THE HIGH CALIBER OF REPLACEMENT SELECTED FOR COLONEL MORT, SANG PROJECT MANAGER. HIS CREDENTIALS ARE EXTREMELY IMPRESSIVE AND HE WOULD, UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, PROVE TO BE A DISTINCT ASSET TO THE PROGRAM. HOWEVER, I STILL BELIEVE THAT COLONEL MORT SHOULD BE RETAINED AS ORIGINALLY REQUESTED. THIS VIEW HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY A LETTER RECEIVED FROM PRINCE ABDULLAH, NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDER IN CHIEF, WITHIN THE PAST FEW DAYS. HRH REFERRED TO COLONEL MORT'S VAST WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE HIS SUCCESSOR A LONG PERIOD TO ATTAIN, AND SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT HE BE EXTENDED BEYOND RETIREMENT.

2. IN A DISCUSSION ON OCTOBER 23, PRINCE ABDULLAH ALSO ASKED THAT IF COLONEL MORT COULD NOT CONTINUE AS PROJECT MANAGER, COLONEL GORDON FERRIS BE RETURNED TO REPLACE HIM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 06278 300925Z

3. OBVIOUSLY COLONEL MORT CANNOT REMAIN HERE INDEFINITELY, NOR WOULD HE DESIRE TO DO SO. PRINCE ABDULLAH FULLY UNDERSTANDS THIS. HOWEVER, THE SANG PROGRAM IS STILL IN ITS FLEDGLING STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT, COLONEL MORT HAS BEEN HERE SINCE ITS INCEPTION, AND PRINCE ABDULLAH IS OF THE STRONG OPINION THAT HE SHOULD REMAIN WITH THE PROGRAM UNTIL IT IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED.

4. I WILL NOT BELABOR THE POINT REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE U.S., AND THE NECESSITY OF DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSURE THE SAUDIS OF OUR DETERMINATION TO PROVIDE THE BEST SECURITY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE. SHOULD COLONEL MORT NOT BE EXTENDED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE SENIOR GUARD PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THAT DECISION SINCE IT IS THEIR WISH TO RETAIN HIM. COLONEL MORT IS A KNOWN QUANTITY, WELL-ESTABLISHED IN A PROGRAM WHICH THE SAUDIS BELIEVE ONE OF THEIR MOST IMPORTANT DEFENSE PROJECTS, AND ONE WHICH WE HAVE PLEDGED TO SUPPORT.

5. IF, AFTER CONSIDERING THESE FACTORS, IT IS DETERMINED TO BE PATENTLY IMPOSSIBLE TO RETAIN COLONEL MORT, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE COLONEL FERRIS RETURNED, AS STATED PREVIOUSLY, TO A KEY POSITION IN THE SANG PM OFFICE, PREFERABLY AS PROJECT MANAGER, BUT AS LEAST AS DEPUTY. IF DETERMINED THAT COLONEL LAWRENCE WILL DEFINITELY REPLACE COLONEL MORT, A LONG OVERLAP WOULD BE NEEDED FOR COLONEL LAWRENCE TO BECOME KNOWN AND TRUSTED BEFORE COLONEL MORT LEFT.

AKINS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JIDDA06278
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740309-0706
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974108/aaaaafvm.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 230811
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUITY IN SANG MODERNIZATION PROGRAM
TAGS: MASS, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005